AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition for improving the properties of a cementitious composition,

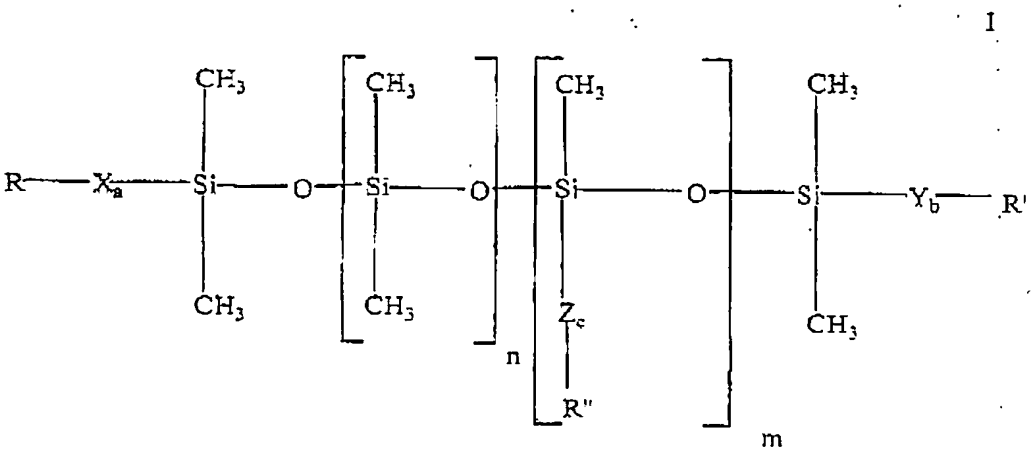
comprising a fluid blend of

(i) at least one polyalkylene oxide, wherein the alkylene oxide units ~~being~~ are at least one of ethylene ~~and~~ or propylene oxides;

(ii) at least one aqueous paraffin emulsion; and

(iii) at least one siloxane compound that is at least one of liquid ~~and~~ or soluble in at least one of water ~~and~~ or aqueous alkali.

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The composition according to claim 1, in which the siloxane compound is selected from those that correspond to the general formula I:



I

where m and n are independently from 1-2000~~, preferably from 1-500 and more preferably from 1-200~~, a, b, and c are independently either 0 or 1 and X, Y and Z are selected from

-O-;

-O-$(CH_2)_{1-30}$-, this moiety ~~being~~ is at least one of linear, branched ~~and~~ or containing at least one ring;

-$(CH_2)_{1-30}$-, this moiety ~~being~~ is at least one of linear, branched ~~and~~ or containing at least one ring;

-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-;

-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-;

-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-O-; and

-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-N-;

and R, R' and R'' are independently selected from at least one of hydrogen, C_{1-100} alkyl, C_{6-30} aryl, C_{7-30} aralkyl; C_{7-30} alkaryl; C_{1-30} hydroxyalkyl; C_{3-200} polyhydroxyalkyl; polyether consisting of from 2-200 identical or different C_{1-15} oxyalkylene units; C_{1-30} aminoalkyl; polyiminopolyalkylene having from 1-20 identical or different C_{2-15} alkylene units; polyiminopolyoxyalkylene having from 1-20 identical or different C_{2-15} oxyalkylene units; C_{3-30} quaternary ammonium, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one anion; C_{4-30} betaine; carboxyl, optionally completely or partially ionised with ~~any suitable~~ at least one cation; C_{4-30} polycarboxyalkyl, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; sulpho group, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; thiosulpho group, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; epoxide group; glycidyl; acrylate; C_{1-30} ester; polyester consisting of from 2-200 C_{2-15} diacid and diester monomer units; and esters of inorganic acids, wherein all alkyl chains ~~being~~ are at least one of linear, branched ~~and~~ or ~~comprising~~ comprise at least one ring.

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The composition according to ~~claim 1 or~~ claim 2, ~~in which~~ wherein the siloxane compound is selected from those of Formula I in which a, b, and c are all 1 and X, Y and Z are selected from

-O-$(CH_2)_{1-30}$-, this moiety ~~being~~ is linear or branched;

-$(CH_2)_{1-30}$-, this moiety ~~being~~ is linear or branched; and

-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-;

and R, R' and R'' are independently ~~selected from~~ at least one of hydrogen; hydroxy; polyether consisting of from 2-200 identical or different C_{2-6} oxyalkylene units, ~~with the proviso that,~~ wherein if there is present more than one type of oxyalkylene unit, there shall be present at least two of each unit; C_{3-30} quaternary ammonium, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one anion; C_{4-30} betaine; carboxyl, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; sulpho group, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; thiosulpho group, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; glycidyl; and acrylate; wherein all alkyl chains ~~being~~ are at least one of linear, branched ~~and~~ or ~~comprising~~ comprise at least one ring.

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ claim 2, in which the siloxane compound is selected from those of Formula I in which m and n are independently selected from 1-200, a, b, and c are all 1 and X, Y and Z are selected from

$-O-(CH_2)_{1-12}-$;
$-(CH_2)_{1-12}-$; and
$-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-$;

and R, R' and R'' are independently ~~selected from~~ at least one of hydrogen; hydroxy; polyether consisting of from 2-200 identical or different C_{2-6} oxyalkylene units, ~~with the proviso that~~ wherein, if there is present more than one type of oxyalkylene unit, there shall be present at least two of each unit; C_{3-30} quaternary ammonium, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one anion; C_{4-30} betaine; carboxyl, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; glycidyl; ~~and~~ or acrylate; wherein all alkyl chains ~~being capable of being~~ may be linear or branched.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-4~~ claim 2, in which the siloxane compound is selected from those of Formula I in which m is from 1-30 and n is from 1-100, a, b, and c are all 1 and X, Y and Z are selected from

$-O-(CH_2)_{1-6}-$;

$-(CH_2)_{1-6}-$; and

$-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-$;

and R, R' and R'' are independently selected from at least one of hydrogen; hydroxy; polyether consisting of from 2-200 identical or different C_{2-6} oxyalkylene units, ~~with the proviso that~~ wherein, if there is present more than one type of oxyalkylene unit, there shall be present at least two of each unit; C_{3-30} quaternary ammonium, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one anion; C_{4-10} betaine and carboxyl, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; wherein all alkyl chains ~~being capable of being~~ may be linear or branched.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1 in which the polyalkylene oxide is polyethylene oxide.

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-6~~ claim 1 in which the weight-average molecular weight of the polyalkylene oxide is 100,000-8,000,000~~, preferably 2,000,000-5,000,000~~.

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-7~~ claim 1 in which the paraffin emulsion is an ionically-emulsified paraffin mixture with a fusion point of 45-51°C and a particle size of less than ~~2μM~~ 2μm.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of modifying the properties of a cementitious composition, comprising adding to a fluid cementitious mix a composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-8~~ claim 1.

10. (Currently Amended) A cementitious ~~mix~~ composition having improved properties, ~~which~~ wherein the cementitious composition comprises a chemical composition according to ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1.

11. (New) The composition according to claim 2, wherein m and n are independently from 1 to 500.

12. (New) The composition according to claim 2, wherein R and R' are methyl or ethyl.

13. (New) The composition according to claim 2, wherein R" comprises ethylene oxide-propylene oxide copolymers of from 10 to 100 units.

14. (New) The cementitious composition according to claim 10, wherein the amount of siloxane compound is from 0.05% to 20% by weight of the cement.

15. (New) The cementitious composition according to claim 10, comprising finely-divided silica.

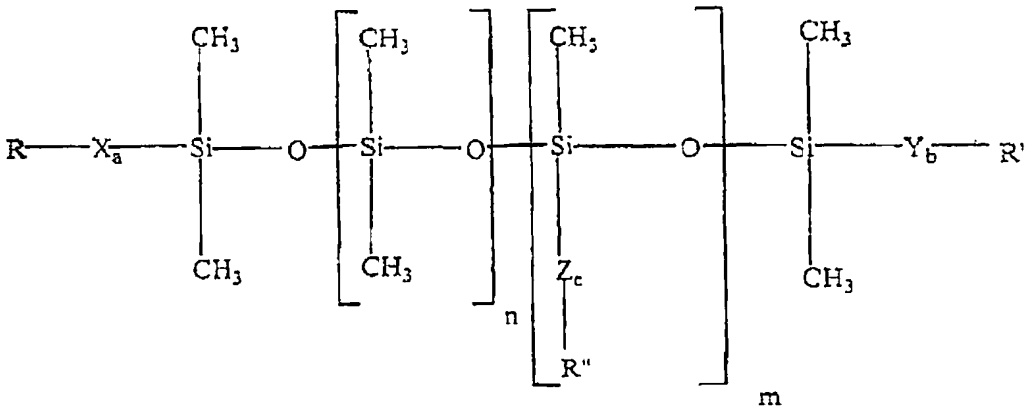
16. (New) The cementitious composition according to claim 15, wherein the composition comprises finely-divided silica up to 20% by weight of the siloxane compound.

17. (New) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises an emulsifier.

18. (New) The cementitious composition according to claim 10, comprising at least one of plasticizers, superplasticisers, antifreeze agents, pigments, air-entraining agents, accelerators, retarders or reinforcing fibres that are comprised of at least one of metal, glass or polymer.

19. (New) The cementitious composition according to claim 10, in which the siloxane compound is selected from those that correspond to the general formula I:

I



where m and n are independently from 1-2000, a, b, and c are independently either 0 or 1 and X, Y and Z are selected from

-O-;

-O-$(CH_2)_{1-30}$-, this moiety is at least one of linear, branched or containing at least one ring;

-$(CH_2)_{1-30}$-, this moiety is at least one of linear, branched or containing at least one ring;

-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-;

-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-;

-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-O-; and

-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-N-;

and R, R' and R'' are independently selected from at least one of hydrogen, C_{1-100} alkyl, C_{6-30} aryl, C_{7-30} aralkyl; C_{7-30} alkaryl; C_{1-30} hydroxyalkyl; C_{3-200} polyhydroxyalkyl; polyether consisting of from 2-200 identical or different C_{1-15} oxyalkylene units; C_{1-30} aminoalkyl; polyiminopolyalkylene having from 1-20 identical or different C_{2-15} alkylene units; polyiminopolyoxyalkylene having from 1-20 identical or different C_{2-15} oxyalkylene units; C_{3-30} quaternary ammonium, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one anion; C_{4-30} betaine; carboxyl, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; C_{4-30} polycarboxyalkyl, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation;

sulpho group, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; thiosulpho group, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; epoxide group; glycidyl; acrylate; C_{1-30} ester; polyester consisting of from 2-200 C_{2-15} diacid and diester monomer units; and esters of inorganic acids, wherein all alkyl chains are at least one of linear, branched or comprise at least one ring.

20. (New) The cementitious composition according to claim 19, wherein the siloxane compound is selected from those of Formula I in which a, b, and c are all 1 and X, Y and Z are selected from

$-O-(CH_2)_{1-30}-$, this moiety is linear or branched;
$-(CH_2)_{1-30}-$, this moiety is linear or branched; and
$-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-$;

and R, R' and R'' are independently at least one of hydrogen; hydroxyl; polyether consisting of from 2-200 identical or different C_{2-6} oxyalkylene units, wherein if there is present more than one type of oxyalkylene unit, there shall be present at least two of each unit; C_{3-30} quaternary ammonium, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one anion; C_{4-30} betaine; carboxyl, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; sulpho group, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; thiosulpho group, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; glycidyl; and acrylate; wherein all alkyl chains are at least one of linear, branched or comprise at least one ring.